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TURNER-CIA (TOPS N13)

BY RICHARD PYLE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT CARTERS CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR OF THE CIA SAID TODAY HE HOPES TO REBUILD THE REPUTATION OF THE U. S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND WILL MAKE THE LAWFUL CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES A TOP PRIORITY.

ADM. STANFIELD TURNER, A NAVAL ACADEMY CLASSMATE OF CARTER AND NOW CHIEF OF NATO FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, ALSO TOLD THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE THAT WHILE SOME SECRECY IS NECESSARY, THE CIA MUST AVOID OVERCLASSIFYING DATA AND SHOULD SELECTIVELY PUBLISH THAT WHICH WOULD BE OF PUBLIC VALUE.

THE 53-YEAR-OLD CAREER NAVY OFFICER WAS THE LEAD-OFF WITNESS AS THE SENATE PANEL OPENED A HEARING ON HIS CONFIRMATION AS CHIEF OF THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. COMMITTEE SOURCES INDICATED EARLIER THEY SAW NO MAJOR ROADBLOCKS STANDING IN TURNERS WAY.

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANIEL INOUE, D-HAWAII, TURNER SAID HE DID NOT PLAN TO RESIGN HIS NAVY COMMISSION, ADDING THAT OTHERS HAD HELD THE POST WHILE ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY AND THAT HE SAW NO CONFLICT.

IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, TURNER STRESSED HIS INTENTION TO KEEP THE CIA INDEPENDENT OF OUTSIDE PRESSURES.

TURNER SAID THAT AS ONE WHO HAD USED INTELLIGENCE THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO HAVE NUMEROUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND IS AWARE OF THE DANGERS TO MILITARY PLANNING AND OPERATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES THAT ARE BIASED IN ONE DIRECTION.

Comment:

*These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytic component in the Agency.*

TURNER DECLARED THAT IT WAS HIS DEEPEST CONVICTION THAT AMERICAS GREATEST STRENGTH IS PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IT IS THE SOLEMN DUTY OF EVERY AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS, HE SAID.

TURNER SAID HE BELIEVED THE DISCLOSURES OF WRONGDOING IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN RECENT YEARS WERE NECESSARY BUT HAD DAMAGED THE PUBLIC REPUTATION OF THE AGENCIES AND HE INTENDS TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND CREDIBILITY IN THE CIA BY MAKING IT CLEAR TO ITS EMPLOYEES WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM AND REWARDING THEM FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

I WANT THEM TO REALIZE THEIR FULL CAPABILITIES ... THEY ARE VITAL TO OUR CONTINUED FREEDOM BECAUSE THE CONTINUATION OF FREEDOM IS DEPENDENT ON AN OBJECTIVE AWARENESS OF ANYTHING WHICH COULD THREATEN IT.

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